

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement Sheets 1-4 including Figures 1-4 are submitted to replace the original drawing sheets 1-4. No changes have been made to Figures 1-4 except to meet the formal requirements for drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1-4

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 13-14 and 19. Support for the amended Claims can be found in paragraphs 30-34 and Figures 2-3 of the original specification. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters and Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the quality and resolution of Figure 2 is poor. In response, the Applicants have submitted formal drawings that clearly present the variables of Figure 2. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection of Figure 2.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,859,550 to Brandt in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,268,753 to Sandusky. The Applicants respectfully disagree since the cited combination of Brandt and Sandusky does not teach or suggest a digital feedback delay line having a plurality of taps with each of the taps having a fixed delay as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 14.

As recognized by the Examiner, Brandt does not teach or suggest a delay line having a plurality of taps. (See Examiner's Action, page 3.) Accordingly, Brandt also does not teach or suggest a delay line having a plurality of taps with each of the taps having a fixed delay as recited in amended Claims 1, 8 and 14. To teach a delay line having a plurality of taps, the Examiner cites Sandusky. (See Examiner's Action, page 3.) Sandusky is directed to digital signal variable delay systems. (See column 1, lines 9-11.) Sandusky discloses a delay line including delay elements. (See column 4, lines 51-63 and Figure 4.)

The delay elements in the delay line of Sandusky, however, do not have a fixed delay. On the contrary, the delay elements have a variable delay that is controlled by a delay voltage to provide a total system delay. (See column 3, lines 42-50, column 5, lines 8-12 and Figure 4.) Sandusky, therefore, also does not teach or suggest a delay line having a plurality of taps with each of the taps having a fixed delay as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 14.

Thus, the cited combination of Brandt and Sandusky fails to teach or suggest each element of independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 and, as such, does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 1, 8 and 14 and Claims dependent thereon. Claims 1-20, therefore, are not obvious in view of Brandt and Sandusky. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw §103(a) rejection and allow issuance of Claims 1-20.

Furthermore, specifically regarding Claims 2, 9 and 15, the Examiner asserts that Sandusky discloses taps comprising a switch. (See Examiner's Action, page 4.) The Applicants respectfully disagree since the switches disclosed in Sandusky are employed to select a specific delay element instead of comprising a delay element. Thus, even considering a delay element of Sandusky is a tap as presently claimed and a switch is a functional equivalent of a multiplexer as asserted by

the Examiner, Sandusky does not teach or suggest the delay elements include the switches but that the switches are used to select the delay elements. Accordingly, the cited combination of Brandt and Sandusky also does not teach the subject matter of dependent Claims 2, 9 and 15.

III. Comment of References Not Relied Upon

The Applicants reserve further review of the references cited but not relied upon if relied upon in the future.


IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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